

THE TRUE NORTHERNER.

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The Convention.

The republican national convention is in session at St. Louis, and after its work is concluded, the campaign of '96 will open up in earnest. What will be the issues? This question is occupying a much greater place in the public mind than is the matter of who will be the candidates.

First and foremost, the tariff will be an issue. It will and should overshadow every other question this year. The business depression, unemployed labor, revenue deficiency and bond issues are all directly attributable to the iniquitous legislative abortion known as the Wilson-Gorman tariff. The people have become thoroughly convinced that the best "tariff for revenue," and the only reliable one, is a tariff for protection. The free trade democracy will not be permitted to disguise its hideous free trade features behind a currency mask, or any other disguise, as it is clearly anxious to do. The tariff question is of primary importance, and both parties must come out openly and show their true colors on this question. The declaration of the St. Louis convention on the tariff will be positive and unequivocal.

The only other issue that is attracting, or is likely to attract any considerable amount of attention, is the matter of our currency. Both parties are divided on this question, on sectional lines that divide the east from the west. The split in the prohibition party on the currency question is only a forerunner of what may happen in the greater parties. What stand will be taken by the republican party? This question overshadows all others in interest as the convention is commencing its work. The eastern republicans are contending for a single gold standard declaration; western men, under the lead of Senator Teller, demand free silver and threaten to bolt if their demands are not conceded; the great middle states occupy a conservative ground and are apt to be the force that will hold the party together. Almost without exception, these states in their own conventions have adopted conservative platforms, favoring no depreciated currency, but the largest use of silver compatible with a maintenance of the parity of the two metals; Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois may be cited as indicating the currency sentiment of the middle states. The Indiana platform, mentioned at length by the NORTHERNER a few weeks since as an ideal exposition of good republicanism, seems to find especial favor and is quite likely to be the declaration of the national republican convention. Such a plank would make the party much stronger than would the policy asked by either extreme faction. The democracy, meanwhile, is "in the air," waiting to take a stand opposed to the republicans, no matter what that stand may be, realizing its only hope of success is in detracting attention from the main issue, the tariff. The adoption of a conservative financial plank by the republican convention will leave the democracy without a single principle for which to contend—a party without an issue.

The Tariff as an Issue.

From Leslie's Weekly.

It is quite apparent that the democratic managers greatly underrate the attachment of the American people to the protective principle. Their belief that they can relegate this question to the rear in the coming campaign affords conclusive evidence of this fact. Nothing could be more false than the pretense that the tariff question is of no real importance. The truth is that many, whether rightly or wrongly, regard it as the paramount issue awaiting decision. The demand for the nomination of Major McKinley derives its specific force from the fact that he is the representative and embodiment of the protective principle, and is associated in the public mind with the policy which has contributed to the development of our industries and to the promotion of our general prosperity. It is this fact which draws to him especially the support of the working classes in every industrial state of the Union, and

which, at the same time, enlists the sympathy and support of our great manufacturing interests. It could not well be otherwise than that the people should desire the modification of our existing tariff policy. It was claimed for the Wilson Bill, when it was enacted, that it would speedily vindicate itself to the public. It would, we were assured, greatly increase the national prosperity. The fact is, however, that from the very start it has proved itself more effectual in producing a deficit than in supplying the revenue necessary to meet the expenses of the government. The treasury department has been compelled to meet its necessities by the sale of bonds, and the deficit is steadily growing larger, with no prospect of any turn in the tide or a betterment of existing conditions. It goes without saying that every intelligent citizen must regard with disfavor a system which thus continually augments the public debt, while at the same time operating to the prejudice of our industries. Every man who is at all familiar with business affairs is aware that economic conditions are, if any thing, more unfavorable to-day than they were two years ago. Our productive energies are not remuneratively employed, our capital is not finding profitable investment, our skilled labor is, as to many branches of production, practically paralyzed. These conditions cannot continue much longer without very grave and serious disaster. The attempt, in the face of such conditions, to create an impression that the tariff issue is of no consequence, is so absolutely absurd on the face of it that we can only wonder at the temerity which essays it.

THERE are two standards by which a party may be judged, when it asks the support of the people at the polls. Its record and its promises. No party can escape responsibility for either. No matter how fair the promises of the democracy may be in this year's campaign, the party will be judged even more by its record than by its platform. The record of democracy is marked with depression, deficiencies in revenue and hard times. The record of the democratic party is amply sufficient to condemn it, and no platitudes inserted in its platform can be sufficiently potent for its redemption.

SENATOR Teller, a republican, is more talked about for the democratic nomination for the presidency than any other man. Is the democracy hard up for presidential timber, or does it see the necessity for infusing republican principles into its ranks?

THE New York delegation at St. Louis doesn't seem to be half so much interested in the presidency as in Platt's political future.

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LOGICAL CANDIDATE.

CLEVELAND IS THE MAN FOR THE DEMOCRATS.

Professor Wilson Should Be His Running Mate—Tariff War to Be Waged From Gorman's Vantage Ground—No "Treachery in the Camp"—A Bold Challenge.

While the Democratic party has been devoting so much earnest attention to the nomination of a Republican candidate for the presidency, it must not for a moment be assumed that its own affairs are being neglected. In discussing the Republican outlook the Democrats are conducting their own campaign. But there has been a lack of reciprocity on the Republican side, which seems to be so enveloped in its own concerns that no time or space can be spared for discussing the possibilities of its political opponents.

It is well known that the Gorman tariff is not satisfactory to "the rank and file" of the Democratic party. The Wilson bill was more to their liking. But it was amended in some 600 particulars, under the guidance of certain Democratic senators, till President Cleveland admitted that "there are provisions in this bill which are not in line with honest tariff reform." So strongly did he feel, in fact, that he became "more settled than ever in the determination to allow the bill to become a law without my (his) signature."

Mr. Cleveland, however, never surrendered all hope of acquiring a perfect tariff from the free trade standpoint. He said: "I cannot be mistaken as to the necessity of free raw materials as the foundation of logical and sensible tariff reform." In only one industry, that of wool manufacture, has free raw material been granted to the American people. The result has hardly been satisfactory to the manufacturers, perhaps, because they did not also secure free coal and free iron. It is true that the furniture manufacturers have free lumber, but as they are not capturing any large share of the markets of the world, they possibly need free glue, free nails, free screws and free varnish. Mr. Cleveland appreciates these points. He further has hopes of providing more free raw materials that "would carry to every humble home in the land the blessings of increased comfort and cheaper living." Bad as the Gorman tariff is, he regards it as "not only a barrier against the return of mad protection, but it furnishes a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations against protected monopoly and governmental favoritism."

What clearer ring, what plainer challenge could be given to the friends of protection? When Mr. Cleveland refused to attach his signature to the Wilson bill with its 600 attachments, though regarding it as "a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations," he publicly proclaimed, through the medium of Hon. T. C. Catchings, as follows:

"I take my place with the rank and file of the Democratic party who believe in tariff reform and who know what it is, who refuse to accept the results of this bill as the close of the war, who are not blinded to the fact that the livery of Democratic tariff reform has been stolen and worn in the service of Republican protection, and who have marked the places where the deadly blight of treason has blasted the counsels of the brave in their hour of might."

The tariff reform party disowns the existing law except as "a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations." Their "livery has been stolen." It must be recovered from the Republican protectionists. Secretary Morton must mix up his strongest insecticides to exterminate the rot and mildew in the Democratic party caused by "the deadly blight of treason." Even now the president and his cohort, Professor Wilson, are girding up their loins for the fray and reviving the blasted counsels of the brave in their hour of weakness. Come on, protectionists! Here is the challenge of the Democratic president:

"The millions of our countrymen who have fought bravely and well for tariff reform should be exhorted to continue the struggle, boldly challenging to open warfare and constantly guarding against the treachery and half heartedness in their camp."

What nonsense to talk of the currency question as being the issue of the presidential campaign of 1896. Was Grover Cleveland ever known to be a backslider? Did he ever shirk his duty to his country or hire a substitute "to continue the struggle" while "boldly challenging to open warfare?" To do this would be "the deadly blight of treason." Is there "treachery in the camp" that "furnishes a vantage ground from which must be waged further aggressive operations?" Cleveland a traitor to tariff reform? Cleveland a coward in the cause? Nonsense!

What need is there of a Democratic convention being held in Chicago? The gauntlet has been thrown down by the Democratic president. "Let the country ring" with the issue of protection versus free trade. Grover Cleveland is the logical Democratic candidate for president. His cohort, in the effort to lock out American labor from our factories, can be none other than Professor William Lockout Wilson. Unfurl the banner for "the benefit of a patient and long suffering people."

Democratic Candidates (under the banner of free trade):

For President—Plain Grover Cleveland.

For Vice President—Professor William Lockout Wilson.

It Wasn't So.

The question of the tariff can take care of itself, and no man's vote cast this year will have any immediate effect upon that subject.—New York Sun, 1892.

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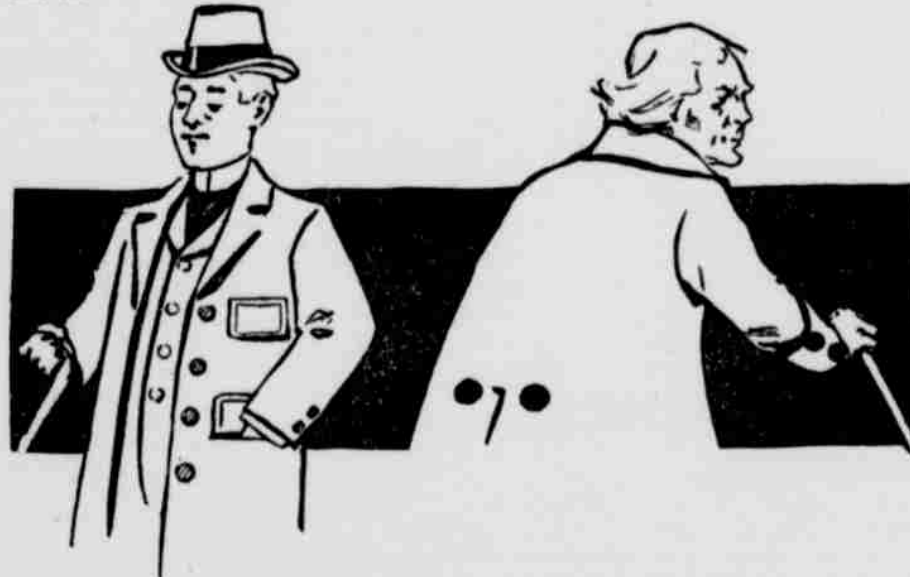
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